GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3240
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
OPEN HOUSE MEETING ORGAISED BY TRAI
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were differences at an open house meeting organised by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) over opening up the fixed telephone sector to un-limited competition;

(b) if so, the details of the difference between cellular telephone operators and the basic telephone operators;

(c) the reaction of he Government thereto;

(d) the extent to which private telecom companies formed cartels to reduce competition; and

(e) the steps proposed to be take by the Government to prevent the formation of cartels in the telecom sector?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): Though the participants in open house discussions are free to give their opinions but there were no major differences on the issue of opening up the fixed telephone sector to unlimited competition.

(c) TRAI, afterexamining the various view points, recommended to open up the fixed telephone sector to unlimited competition and the Government accepted it.

(d) No cartel formation has come to the notice in respect of licences issued so far.

(e) The net-worth and experience of a promoter/partner can be considered in one applicant company only for issue of licences in a Service Area without restricting competition.